

Newsletter

October - December 2025



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In the News

BRAC JPGSPH welcomed Bangladesh Midwifery Society 2025 Committee



BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University, proudly welcomed the newly elected members of the **Bangladesh Midwifery Society (BMS) 2025 Committee**. Four out of the five members of the new Executive Board—Rujina Khatun (President), Afsana Akther (Vice-President), Hasna Akter (General Secretary), and Bokul Akter Liza (Education Secretary)—are graduates of the Midwifery Education Programme at BRAC JPGSPH. The programme was attended by senior government officials and representatives from UNFPA, who congratulated the committee and discussed opportunities for future collaboration.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day 2025 observed at BRAC JPGSPH



The programme was held in December 2025 in collaboration with the **Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)**, BRAC JPGSPH, and **Bangladesh Health Watch**. The event focused on addressing inequalities in health care in Bangladesh and explored pathways towards inclusive UHC to reduce unaffordable health-care costs. Policymakers, public health experts, practitioners, and civil society representatives discussed persistent inequities in access to health services and identified actionable strategies to strengthen the health system.

BRAC JPGSPH represented at the Asian Conference on Implementation Science (ACIS) 2025



Dr Laura Reichenbach, Dean and Director of the Centre of Excellence for the Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), attended the conference held in Guangzhou, China, in November 2025. During the conference, she presented in **two panel sessions focusing on implementation policy and capacity-building for implementation research**. In addition, she participated in steering committee meetings of the Asian Society for Implementation Science, of which she is an active member.

Additionally, a BRAC JPGSPH project titled **“Implementation Research on Wearable Technology for Pediatric Sepsis Management in Bangladesh”** achieved a milestone with the acceptance of an abstract for both oral and poster presentations at the conference. Dr Malabika Sarker, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH, delivered the oral presentation. Certificates of honour were awarded to Dr Jannatul Saki and Dr Malabika Sarker in recognition of their contributions.

BRAC JPGSPH represented at FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Launch

Professor Kaosar Afsana, Lead, Humanitarian Hub, BRAC JPGSPH, joined a **high-level panel** at the launch of the **Asia-Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2025** in December 2025. Organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Bangkok, Thailand, the session addressed key findings from the flagship report co-authored by IFAD, WFP, and WHO.

AMR research evidence shared at the Regional Workshop “Leaving no one behind in AMR research, policy and practice: Integrating gender and equity in AMR One Health Solutions”



At the workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair in Health and Poverty, and Director of the Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR), BRAC JPGSPH, presented on the work of the **Gender and Equity within Antimicrobial Resistance (GEAR up)** Consortium in Bangladesh. The event was jointly hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and ICARS, supported by the European Commission through the Regional Tripartite AMR Project (implemented in collaboration with WHO and WOA) and by the UK Department for Health and Social Care.

Participation at the Global Convening on Just Transitions for Antimicrobial Resistance (JT4AMR)

Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC), BRAC JPGSPH, attended a British Academy-funded convening in November 2025 in London, UK. He participated in discussions on governance, health systems, waste management, and advocacy measures for the **equitable and sustainable mitigation of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**.

BRAC JPGSPH researchers presented at the "Delivering for Nutrition (D4N) in South Asia 2025" Conference



Researchers from BRAC JPGSPH shared critical evidence at the conference held in December 2025 in Nepal and online. Presentations by Santhia Ireen, Deputy Director, Education and Research, Atiya Rahman, Assistant Scientist, and Saira Parveen Jolly, Assistant Scientist, covered a range of issues, including **maternal, infant and young child nutrition, primary health care, supplement adherence, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food systems, and women's empowerment**. Dr Malay Kanti Mridha, Deputy Dean and Director, Centre for Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition, Dr Syeda Mahsina Akter, Assistant Scientist, Dr Ali Ahsan, Research Coordinator, and Meghna Chakravartty, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, also participated in the conference.

ACCESS4ALL Learning Hub presented at the Regional Erasmus+ Cluster Meeting and Contact-Making Seminar 2025 for Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific

At the seminar in Sri Lanka, Selima Kabir, Senior Research Associate at BRAC JPGSPH, presented on the **ACCESS4ALL** project, which aims to co-create short courses centred on workforce needs and priorities; develop transformative green skills; empower communities and practitioners to **enhance climate change knowledge and champion locally led solutions**; and build a Global South–led digital repository to amplify regional perspectives.

BRAC JPGSPH researcher awarded grant from the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH)

Dr. Lamisa Rahman, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, was awarded the grant from RSTMH, in partnership with National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), under the **Early Career Grants Programme**. She was awarded for the project titled **"Accessing Childhood Cancer Care in Bangladesh: An Exploratory Qualitative Study."**

Research evidence on Community Health Workers (CHW) shared at the 4th International CHW Symposium

Dr Nahitun Naher, Deputy Director, CoE-HS&UHC, delivered a presentation titled **"Promoting Gender-Responsive Policies and Programmes for Community Health Workers in Bangladesh"** at the symposium in Thailand. The presentation focused on stakeholder and policy perspectives aimed at strengthening gender-responsive approaches within community health worker (CHW) programmes in Bangladesh.

EV4GH Governance Board convened to shape the 2026 venture



In November 2025, the **Emerging Voices for Global Health (EV4GH) Secretariat** at the BRAC JPGSPH hosted the Annual Governance Board Meeting, bringing together both in-person and online members from across the globe. Board members discussed the upcoming EV4GH 2026 Venture and reviewed planned activities aligning on expected outcomes. The meeting also focused on improving governance processes, and identifying pathways to elevate programmatic influence across regions.

Education Updates

Master of Public Health (MPH) programme

In October - December 2025, five courses were taught at the MPH programme by our amazing pool of national and international faculty.

Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights



Course Coordinators: Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid, Professor, BRAC JPGSPH; and Dr Bachera Aktar, Deputy Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

About the Module: This course provided students with a comprehensive understanding of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) from epidemiological, anthropological, policy, human rights, and public health programme perspectives. It critically examined how global and local agendas, alongside social, cultural, gender, and political-economic contexts, shape access to care, the quality of services, and the realisation of rights. Through facilitated discussions, case studies, group work, debates, and a communication campaign, students engaged with both theoretical frameworks and real-world challenges.

Monitoring & Evaluation of Public Health Programmes



Course Coordinators: Dr Ataur Rahman, Director, CPSPD, BRAC JPGSPH, and Dr Santhia Ireen, Deputy Director, Education & Research, BRAC JPGSPH

About the Module: This course provided students with the core concepts and practical skills required to design, manage, and implement M&E systems for public health interventions. It introduced professional evaluation practices at the policy, programme, and project levels, with particular emphasis on theory of change, logic models, OECD-DAC evaluation criteria, and evaluation design. The course also strengthened participants' capacity to manage evaluations, ensure data quality, and communicate findings effectively.

Introduction to Implementation Research



Course Coordinators: Dr Laura Reichenbach, Dean, BRAC JPGSPH, Dr Nafisa Lira Huq, Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH, and Dr Humayra Binte Anwar, Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH

About the Module: This course introduced students to the core concepts of implementation research, relevant frameworks, and practical strategies for translating evidence into routine public health practice. It emphasised stakeholder engagement, ethical considerations, knowledge translation, and economic evaluation to assess the value, feasibility, and sustainability of interventions. Participants developed implementation research questions and context-specific study designs to address real-world delivery challenges.

Epidemiology of Non-Communicable Diseases



Course Coordinators: Dr Malay Kanti Mridha, Professor and Deputy Dean, BRAC JPGSPH, and Dr Fariha Haseen, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPSGPH, and Professor, Bangladesh Medical University

About the Module: This course explored epidemiological and demographic transitions, behavioural and clinical risk factors, and health system responses to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and ageing. Students also conducted structured fieldwork in Birganj Upazila, Dinajpur, engaging with communities and visiting community clinics, union facilities, upazila health complexes, and the district medical college.

Environment, Health, and Climate Change



Course Coordinator: Dr Farzana Misha, Lead, CCEH, BRAC JPGSPH

About the Module: In this course, 22 guest faculty members conducted sessions on environmental health, climate-induced disasters, and their public health consequences. Students also received hands-on training in the application of geographic information systems (GIS) for public health research. In addition, a special session was conducted by Lincoln C. Chen, Board Member Emeritus, BRAC USA.

Midwifery Education Programme (MEP)

MEP students celebrated 16 Days of Activism 2025



Students observed the 16 Days of Activism 2025 from 25 November to 10 December, joining the global movement to end digital violence against women and girls. They participated in interactive activities, including poster-making, slogan development, and an awareness-building workshop. The sessions explored different forms of violence, risk identification, and safety strategies, thereby strengthening students' understanding of their future role as midwives.

Session organised on well-being and stress management



In October 2025, MEP organised an inspiring and interactive session titled "Your Wellbeing Matters: Managing Stress for a Healthy Life." The session focused on practical techniques to manage stress, maintain emotional balance, and build resilience in everyday life. Participants actively engaged in discussions, shared personal experiences, and learned effective strategies to enhance their mental wellbeing and overall quality of life.

Research Updates

Scoping field visit conducted in Satkhira by CARE project team



In October 2025, the research team at the **Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)** conducted a scoping field visit to Satkhira as part of the **CARE** project on **co-developing a SRHR framework with climate-affected adolescents** in Bangladesh. The visit covered three sites: Itagacha, Shyamnagar, and Assasuni. The purpose was to finalise study sites, identify key field contacts, and understand the current adolescent SRHR context in climate-affected settings. The team held informal discussions with community members and programme and field staff from BRAC, gaining first-hand insights into local realities, including displacement, livelihoods, and access to SRHR services.

Creative art-based participatory workshops conducted under the Urban Echoes Project



In November–December 2025, **CGSRHR** successfully completed art-based participatory qualitative workshops in the informal settlements of Shyampur, Dhaka, and Greenland, Khulna. The workshops explored how **climate migrants and**

climate-affected urban communities experience challenges related to health, the environment, and wellbeing. Using innovative art-based methods, such as the Climate Justice Tree and Adaptation Pathways, participants documented lived experiences, gendered vulnerabilities, coping mechanisms, and resilience strategies. This work forms part of the Rebuild Consortium.

Phase 2 video series production under Together Project 2.0 completed



The phase under the project by **CGSRHR** focused on co-creating youth-centered, Bangla SRHR video content through a participatory, youth-led approach. Guided by evidence from Phase 1 and a mapping of existing digital SRHR resources, members of the Youth Advisory Board collaborated with the production house through script development, validation workshops, community engagement, and community casting. The resulting videos will be **inclusive, accessible, and grounded in lived realities**. The project is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Arts-based intervention to address violence against women experiencing infertility and ART (Arts for I-ARTs)

A workshop on Framework Analysis was held in December 2025 as part of the project by **CGSRHR** to strengthen the research team's academic writing skills. As the study data are being analysed using the **Framework Analysis method**, the workshop supported researchers in moving confidently toward the next stage of manuscript preparation.

Baseline assessment of Primary Health Care System capacity in Bangladesh

The research team at the **Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)** successfully completed a collaborative study with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Asia Pacific Observatory (APO) that generated baseline evidence on Bangladesh's primary health care (PHC) system. The work addressed **critical data gaps in South-East Asia by assessing PHC capacity** across governance, financing, human resources, service delivery, and quality of care.

Pilot intervention launched under the SHINE project to support community health workers



The **SHINE** project under **CGSRHR** and **CoE-HS&UHC** launched a pilot intervention aimed at strengthening supportive supervision and **promoting mental wellbeing among community health workers (CHWs)**. This included the development of a Supportive Supervision and Mental Wellbeing Training Module, alongside institutional collaboration with the BRAC Learning Division (BLD) and Social Empowerment and Legal Protection (SELP) to support integration and sustainability. To enhance community-level engagement, the project also developed a popular theatre drama script designed to help CHWs communicate key issues in relatable ways.

Fidelity, facilitators, and barriers to implementing the NCD referral system

The **STRIPE** project of the **Centre of Excellence for the Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)** successfully completed data collection in Faridpur. Data were collected from all three tiers of health care institutions, including primary-level facilities such as community clinics and upazila health complexes, secondary-level facilities such as Faridpur District Hospital, and tertiary-level institutions such as Faridpur Medical College. In total, 621 quantitative surveys were completed, and 38 qualitative interviews (including key informant interviews (KIIs) and in-depth interviews (IDIs)) were conducted during this period.

Implementation research on childhood onset non-communicable diseases (NCD) in two piloted areas



The **UNICEF PNCD** project by **CoE-SISU** and **CoE-HS&UHC** progressed through key preparatory and implementation activities. A priority-setting workshop was conducted at DGHS, engaging government stakeholders, paediatricians, and site focal persons to finalise the research question and align priorities with national needs. The team also participated in a two-day Multicountry PEN-Plus (Childhood-Onset NCD) Study Tour and Workshop at DGHS, enabling cross-country learning. A core team field visit to Kishoreganj assessed facility readiness and tool feasibility. In December 2025, a five-day training prepared the field team, followed by tool pretesting at Bajitpur Upazila Health Complex and Shimultola Community Clinic.

Implementation and feasibility of wearable technology for Paediatric Sepsis Monitoring in Bangladesh

Building on the completed final analysis under the project by **CoE-SISU**, two manuscripts have been developed for submission to peer-reviewed journals, contributing **evidence on paediatric sepsis monitoring, early warning approaches, and implementation feasibility** in low-resource settings. The project also achieved an international milestone with the acceptance of an abstract for both oral and poster presentations at the ACIS 2025 Conference.

Bangladesh Nutrient Profile Model: A tool to classify foods and non-alcoholic beverages high in saturated fatty acids, trans-fatty acids, free sugars and salt

The **Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)** has completed the first phase of a study designed to adapt the **Nutrient Profile Model** for Bangladesh. The study engaged 96 shopkeepers and 480 adult buyers across the eight divisions of Bangladesh through a quantitative survey, complemented by focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. Key informant interviews were also conducted with stakeholders from the food industry, government agencies, research institutions, academia, and development partners to explore potential pathways and inform the design of a roadmap for the effective implementation of the proposed nutrient profile model in Bangladesh.

Adaptation of the WHO South-East Asia region sodium benchmarks for packaged foods in Bangladesh

In November 2025, **CNCDN** completed a study to adapt the **WHO South-East Asia Region (SEAR) Sodium Benchmarks for Packaged Foods to the Bangladeshi context**. The initiative aims to establish context-specific sodium reformulation targets that can guide industry efforts to reduce sodium levels in packaged foods. A major stakeholder consultation workshop convened over 80 representatives from the Ministry of Food, the

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, government agencies, food industries, academia, research institutions, NGOs, and INGOs at BFSA.

Participants expressed consensus on adopting sodium benchmarks for packaged foods in Bangladesh and discussed the importance of a phased reduction approach to support the industry's transition.

From systems to communities: Understanding pathways of change in the Healthy Village in Urban Programme



The **Humanitarian Hub** concluded data collection for the Max Foundation-funded study, **“From Systems to Communities: Understanding Pathways of Change in the Healthy Village in Urban Programme,”** conducted in November–December 2025. Implemented in Lalmonirhat District (Harati, Mahendranagar, Mogolhat, and Lalmonirhat Sadar), the study evaluated programming by the Max Foundation and ESDO. Researchers completed 749 quantitative surveys and 57 qualitative interviews with health workers and beneficiaries. The evaluation focused on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and WASH practices, while identifying system-level drivers shaping programme implementation and highlighting mechanisms that enable or constrain effective health interventions across urban and rural communities.

JiVitA vaginal microbiome community based cohort: A qualitative study



The **JiVitA Vaginal Microbiome Community-Based Cohort Study**, a qualitative collaboration between the **Humanitarian Hub** and the **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**, concluded its month-long fieldwork in Gaibandha in October 2025. Funded by the Gates Foundation, the study used IDIs, FGDs, and KIs to explore community understanding of reproductive tract conditions, including bacterial vaginosis. The research examined barriers to care-seeking and menstrual health and hygiene practices. The findings will inform the design of future preventive and therapeutic interventions tailored to the social contexts and preferences of women in these communities.

Study on the contribution of the Community Paramedic Program to Bangladesh's Primary Healthcare System



The **Hub for Climate Change, Environment, and Health (CCEH)**, in collaboration with **CoE-SISU**, conducted a study on the role of **community paramedics in Bangladesh's primary health care system**. Funded by Swisscontact, data collection was carried out in November 2025 across 17 districts. The mixed-methods study examined how community paramedics, graduates of government-approved two-year programme, contribute to emergency and primary health care delivery in remote communities. It also compared their performance with that of traditional, non-trained health care providers to assess their impact on improving community health outcomes.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Healthcare in the Margins: A qualitative study of healthcare access and utilization in Bangladesh's informal urban settlements

Journal: *Journal of Urban Health*

Authors: [Muhammad Riaz Hossain](#), [Neele Wiltgen Georgi](#), [Farha Musharraf Noor](#), [Bachera Aktar](#), [Jiban Karki](#), [Mst. Nusrat Jahan](#), [SallyTheobald](#), [Sabina Faiz Rashid](#)

Published: 18 December 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-025-01042-2>

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11524-025-01042-2>

Public-private mix for tuberculosis in urban health systems in least-developed, low-income and lower-middle-income countries and territories: a systematic review

Journal: *BMJ Open*

Authors: [Aishwarya Lakshmi Vidyasagan](#), [Noemia Teixeira de Siqueira Filha](#), [Sampurna Kakchapati](#), [Thomas Falconer Hall](#), [Baby Naznin](#), [Jannatun Tajree](#), [Zahidul Quayyum](#), [Deepak Joshi](#), [Florence Tochukwu Sibeudu](#), [Pamela Adaobi Ogbozor](#), [Ifeyinwa Ngozi Arize](#), [Grishu Shrestha](#), [Su Golder](#), [Maisha Ahsan](#), [Swaksar Adhikary](#), [Prince Agwu](#), [Helen Elsey](#)

Published: 17 December 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2024-093246>

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/15/12/e093246.full>

Negotiating and navigating everyday governance for public health services in Dhaka City's informal settlements: A political ecology analysis

Journal: Journal of Community Systems Health

Authors: Bachera Aktar, Linda Waldman, Sabina Faiz Rashid, Sally Theobald, Kim Ozano

Published: 17 December 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36368/jcsh.v2i1.1246>

<https://journals.ub.umu.se/index.php/jcsh/article/view/1246>

One Health for All: Implementing international frameworks with local communities

Journal: PLOS Global Public Health

Authors: Mélodie Ruwet, Michelle Rourke, Kaosar Afsana, Fatimah Ahamad, Elva Borja, Kelley Lee, Clare Wenham, Naomi Woyengu, Sara E. Davies

Published: 11 December 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0005520>

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0005520>

Rohingya women's knowledge and perceptions about pregnancy termination in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh: A community-based study

Journal: Global Public Health

Authors: Ann M. Moore, Kaosar Afsana, Pragna Paramita Mondal, Mira Tignor, Octavia Mulhern, Rubina Hussain, Altaf Hossain, Atiya Rahman, Joe Strong

Published: 23 November 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2025.2583145>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17441692.2025.2583145>

Commentary Critical metabolism: Towards a metabolic justice?

Journal: Journal of Critical Public Health

Authors: Stephen Hinchliffe, Martin Grünfeld, Arthur Rose, Luna Dolezal, Judith Green, Caitlin DeSilvey, Sabina F. Rashid, Gustavo Matta, Martin Moore, Rebecca Lynch, Adam Bencard, G.J. Melendez-Torres, and Robin Pierce

Published: November 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55016/ojs/jcph.v2i2.79003>

<https://journalhosting.ucalgary.ca/index.php/jcph/article/view/79003>

Protective factors and stressors that influence the mental wellbeing of community health workers in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa: a scoping review

Journal: SSM-Health Systems

Authors: Robinson Njoroge Karuga, Obaida Karim, Semonty Jahan, Anne Ngunjiri, Caroline Kabaria, Clement Oduor, Eunice Omanga, Judy Wairiuko, Maaik Seekles, Laura Dean, Lilian Otiso, Linet Okoth, Nahitun Naher, Patricia Okoth, Ranjan Koiri, Robinson Nduati, Sabina Rashid, Sammy Gachigua, Selima Kabir, Stella Gitia, Stella Waruingi, Stephen Mulupi, Subas Chandra Biswas, Syed Masud Ahmed, Victoria Ochwal, Rosalind McCollum, Blessing Mberu

Published: December 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmhs.2025.100147>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2949856225000996>

Antimicrobial resistance, equity and justice in low- and middle-income countries: an intersectional critical interpretive synthesis

Journal: Nature Communications

Authors: Katy Davis, Ralalicia Limato, Meenakshi Monga, Beatrice Egid, Sneha Paul, Susan Okioma, Owen Nyamwanza, Abriti Arjyal, Syeda Tahmina Ahmed, Ayuska Parajuli, Mavis Pearl Kwabla, Bachera Aktar, Anne S. W. Ngunjiri, Kate Hawkins, Russell Dacombe, Syed Masud Ahmed, Mustapha Immurana, Jane Thiomi, Fidelis EY Anumu, Webster Mavhu, Lilian Otiso, Sabina Faiz Rashid, Sushil Baral, Margaret Gyapong, Sally Theobald, Rosie Steege

Published: 13 October 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-64137-z>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-025-64137-z>

Chapter Tender Beginning: Nutrition for infants and young children

Book: Essentials of Clinical and Public Health Nutrition

Authors: Malay Kanti Mridha

Published: 11 October 2025 by Humana Press

Chapter Essential micronutrients for a healthy life

Book: Essentials of Clinical and Public Health Nutrition

Authors: Sabuktagin Rahman, Santhia Ireen, Amal K. Mitra

Published: 11 October 2025 by Humana Press

Review Food acquisition, preparation, and consumption practices in South Asia: A scoping review of assessment tools

Journal: Advances in Nutrition

Authors: Sharvari Patwardhan, Morgan Boncyk, Rasmi Avula, Christine E Blake, Fahmida Akter, Jai K Das, Renuka Silva, Purnima Menon, and Samuel Scott

Published: November 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advnut.2025.100518>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2161831325001565?via%3Dihub>

Training Updates

Interactive workshop: Enhancing publishing skills for the AI-assisted scientist



The **Climate Change, Environment and Health Hub (CCEH)** and the **Centre for Professional Skills Development in Public Health (CPSD)** at BRAC JPGSPH hosted the workshop, facilitated by **Dr Anna Bershteyn** of the **NYU Grossman School of Medicine**. The workshop focused on strengthening scientific writing and the responsible use of AI in research.

Training of Trainers (TOT) for Community Ambassadors under the ACCESS4ALL project



In November 2025, **ACCESS4ALL** hosted a training of trainers (ToT) for 14 **Community Ambassadors** from Khulna, Satkhira, and Chuadanga. The training aimed to build the capacity of community ambassadors to disseminate contextual learning within their communities, supporting wellbeing, climate resilience, and environmental awareness.

Using Psychological Tools in Humanitarian Settings



The three-day short course, held in November–December 2025, was facilitated by Professor Kaosar Afsana, Dr M. Kamruzzaman Mozumder, and Imtiaz Uddin Gazi. It focused on ethical, trauma-sensitive, and psychologically informed research in crisis settings, including disasters and displacement.

AMEHC: Australia Awards Fellowships



In November 2025, the **AMEHC** team at BRAC JPGSPH participated in Round 19 of the Australian Awards Fellowships, titled “**Supporting Adolescent Girls’ Menstrual Health Through Research in Bangladesh (South Asia)**”, organised and hosted by The Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health Ltd. The fellowship was funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The programme supported knowledge exchange, professional development, and capacity building for key health leaders, with a focus on training in **data analysis, reporting, and the preparation of policy briefs.**

Training module on supportive supervision and mental well-being for Community Health Workers

A structured training module was developed under the **SHINE** project to strengthen supportive supervision practices and **promote mental wellbeing and self-care among CHWs.** Developed jointly with the BRAC Learning Division (BLD) and Social Empowerment and Legal Protection (SELP), the module integrates practical supervision tools, stress management techniques, and referral pathways. It is designed for scalability within BRAC and government systems.

Training of Trainers (ToT): Supportive supervision and self-care

The training of trainers was conducted under **SHINE** project equipped master trainers and researchers with the knowledge and facilitation skills required to cascade the SHINE intervention. The training focused on **supportive supervision, self-care practices, adult learning methods, and participatory facilitation techniques,** ensuring consistency and quality in subsequent field-level trainings.

Workshops on Popular Theatre



Popular theatre workshops under the **SHINE** project under **CGRHR** and **CoE-HS&UHC** trained local performers to deliver key messages on **community health worker (CHW) wellbeing and community support,** followed by public performances in Barishal and Mymensingh. The activities generated strong community engagement and feedback, raising awareness of CHW challenges and promoting mutual understanding. Additional performances in Gouranadi, Babuganj, and Trishal expanded outreach and reinforced key messages.

Impact

Evidence-based recommendations shared at high-level workshop on Air Pollution - Health Adaptation Action Plan for Urban Bangladesh



In December 2025, the **Local Government Division (LGD)** convened the high-level workshop in Dhaka, bringing together key government and sector stakeholders. BRAC JPGSPH, serving as the research partner under the World Bank-supported Improvement of Urban Health Preventive Services Project (IUPHPSP), shared evidence to inform a health-centred and actionable air pollution adaptation framework. Dr Farzana Misha, Lead, Climate Change, Environment and Health Hub (CCEH), presented **40 practical, evidence-based recommendations to strengthen national and local capacity** to address air pollution-related health risks, to be taken forward by government agencies and urban stakeholders.

Government, academics, and development professionals engaged on dialogue on climate change and adolescent SRHR



In December 2025, the **CARE Project** under CGSRHR convened a stakeholder workshop

bringing together government officials, researchers, academics, and programme managers to deepen understanding of the **impacts of climate change on SRHR of adolescents** from climate-affected communities. The workshop included plenary discussions highlighting the urgency of addressing adolescent SRHR in climate-vulnerable contexts, alongside interactive group sessions. Participants reflected on key vulnerabilities and pathways for strengthened SRHR-climate coordination.

Study dissemination events organised to share findings on women's empowerment and nutrition security



In December 2025, the **Humanitarian Hub** at the BRAC JPGSPH organised two dissemination events in Dhaka to share findings from the study titled **“Improving Food and Nutrition Security by Enhancing Women's Empowerment.”** The events engaged researchers, programme implementers, and policymakers. Conducted by BRAC JPGSPH in collaboration with the University of Groningen and funded by the Dutch Research Council, the study aims to inform evidence-based policy decisions and guide the future scaling of nutrition-sensitive empowerment interventions in Bangladesh.

Government and other stakeholders engaged in dialogue on urban heat

In October 2025, an webinar titled **“Heat Vulnerability in Dhaka: From Evidence to Action”** was organised by the **CUEH** to celebrate **Urban October**. The webinar was organised as part of the **Community-led Responsive and Effective Urban**

Health Systems (CHORUS) project, a multi-country research programme funded by FCDO. The session presented findings from the Heat Vulnerability Index (HVI) study of Dhaka. Panellists from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Dhaka University, and the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) discussed data-driven and policy pathways to address urban heat risks.

Evidence and policy insights on urban health challenges and vulnerabilities shared at a global webinar

The **CHORUS** research consortium hosted the **webinar** to mark Universal Health Coverage Day 2025. The session brought together experts from Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria, and Ghana to examine **health inequities affecting marginalised urban populations**. Speakers shared country-specific evidence and policy insights on vulnerability, service access, and health system gaps in rapidly urbanising settings. Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH), highlighted urban health challenges in Bangladesh, emphasising equity-focused approaches to strengthen health systems and advance progress towards Universal Health Coverage.

Research presented at the 56th Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health Conference 2025

In November 2025, the conference took place in Chiang Rai, Thailand, in collaboration with and with support from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI), and IOM UN Migration. Syeda Tahmina Ahmed, Senior Research Associate at BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University, presented work on the **social determinants of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in urban informal settlements** in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and represented the Gender and Equity within Antimicrobial Resistance (GEAR up) Consortium.

Insights on equitable AMR containment shared at the International Conference of AMR and Genomics 2025

Dr Lamisa Rahman, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, presented a poster on **“A Just Transitions Framework for Equitable Antimicrobial Resistance Containment: Insights from Five Deliberative Community Workshops in Bangladesh”** at the conference in Malaysia.

BRAC JPGSPH participated in global dialogue on aid transitions and impact on health system

Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director, CUEH, was a speaker in the webinar on **“Health Equity in Changing Times”** organised by evaplan GmbH International Health at the University of Heidelberg. Professor Quayyum shared insights from LMIC perspective, highlighting how abrupt aid transitions affect essential health services and health system resilience.

Urban October Photography Exhibition organised to highlight Dhaka’s urban environmental and heat challenges



Celebrating **Urban October 2025**, BRAC JPGSPH organised the exhibition at BRAC University. The exhibition showcased 40 selected photographs from over 300 submissions by 135 participants, highlighting Dhaka’s urban environmental and health challenges across themes of **pollution, everyday urban struggles, and people-centred health and hope**. The exhibition attracted an estimated 2,500–3,000 visitors and fostered meaningful dialogue on pollution, vulnerability, and shared responsibility for a healthier urban future.

Research evidence shared on increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases in a special webinar for World Diabetes Day 2025

In November 2025, the webinar “**Strengthening Urban Health Systems to Respond to the Increasing Prevalence of Non- Communicable Diseases**” was organised as part of the **CHORUS** webinar series. The session focused on translating CHORUS research evidence into policy and practice. Discussions highlighted **urban-specific non-communicable disease (NCD) challenges**, particularly among poor and informal-settlement populations, and explored health system strengthening strategies to improve access, quality, and equity. Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Deputy Dean, and Director, Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN), shared insights on NCD and nutrition challenges in urban Bangladesh, emphasising equitable and high-quality NCD service delivery for vulnerable urban populations.

Research dissemination organised to share findings on the impact of extreme temperatures on women's mental health in Bangladesh

SAJIDA Foundation, jointly with BRAC JPGSPH, organised a local dissemination event for the “**Heat-Mind Initiative for Women**” project, which examines the **impacts of extreme temperatures on women's mental health** in Bangladesh. The event brought together community members and key stakeholders to share research findings, validate results through participatory discussions, and reflect on lived experiences of heat-related mental stress. Participants explored community perspectives and opportunities for sustainable, community-led mental health responses, supporting the translation of research evidence into locally relevant action.

Findings shared on urban primary health care and strategic purchasing framework



In October 2025, **CUEH** organised a day-long workshop in Dhaka under the **CHORUS** project. The workshop presented findings from “**Designing a Strategic Purchasing Framework for Urban Primary Health Care (PHC) Services in Bangladesh: A Mixed-Methods Study**,” conducted by BRAC JPGSPH and the ARK Foundation.

Learning session under ACCESS4ALL on designing inclusive, climate-focused education

In October 2025, **ACCESS4ALL** hosted a learning session with representatives from BRAC JPGSPH, the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), and Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) to share experiences in **designing inclusive, climate-focused education**. The session focused around BRAC JPGSPH's curriculum development journey, IUB and ULAB's experience in developing a short course under the project, followed by a discussion on the importance of curriculum reform.

Public talk organised on innovative approaches to addressing extreme heat risks

CCEH hosted a public talk on Project **HEATWAVE (Heat Emergency Avoidance Techniques Working to Adapt Vulnerabilities Equitably)**, featuring Dr Anna Bershteyn of the NYU Grossman School of Medicine. The session highlighted innovative approaches to **addressing extreme heat risks**, including climate forecasting and risk modelling to quantify heat stress, digital policy labs to optimise resource allocation, and the development of heat-resilience tools for vulnerable populations.

Bangladesh Health Watch

Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) is a multi-stakeholder civil society advocacy and monitoring network dedicated to improving the health system in Bangladesh through critical reviews of policies and programmes and recommendations of appropriate actions for change. BRAC JPGSPH has been the Secretariat of BHW since 2006.

Health Olympiad organised across regional chapters



Bangladesh Health Watch is organising a **Health Olympiad** across its eight regional chapters (Manikganj, Netrokona, Kurigram, Chapainawabganj, Bagerhat, Sunamganj, Khagrachari, and Barguna) in prominent schools to inspire students to learn, think critically, and engage with key public health issues from an early age. The initiative aims to build health awareness, promote healthy behaviours, and nurture young changemakers by encouraging knowledge-based competition on topics such as child health, climate and health, and disease prevention.

Workshop organised on optimising C-section in Bangladesh



In November 2025, a multi-stakeholder workshop was held at the Office of the Civil Surgeon, Manikganj, to discuss the alarming rise in C-section deliveries and explore strategies for promoting normal vaginal delivery (NVD). Participants included the Civil Surgeon of Manikganj District, consultants from government hospitals, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officers (UHFPOs), representatives from private clinics, journalists, midwives, and civil society members.

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